

Narendra Modi

Chief Ministership Premiership Budgets Constitutional amendments Campaigns Missions Establishments and foundations Events and observances Military and rescue operations Treaties and accords Establishments and foundations Events and observances Military and rescue operations Treaties and accords Narendra Damodardas Modi is an Indian politician who has served as the prime minister of India since Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat from to and is the member of parliament for Varanasi He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh a rightwing Hindutva paramilitary volunteer organisation He is the longest-serving prime minister outside the Indian National Congress Modi was born and raised in Vadnagar Bombay State where he completed his secondary education He was introduced to the RSS at the age of eight becoming a fulltime worker for the organisation in Gujarat in The RSS assigned him to the BJP in and he rose through the party hierarchy becoming general secretary in b In Modi was appointed chief minister of Gujarat and elected to the legislative assembly soon after His administration is considered complicit in the Gujarat riots and has been criticised for its management of the crisis According to official records a little over people were killed threequarters of whom were Muslim independent sources estimated deaths mostly Muslim A Special Investigation Team appointed by the Supreme Court of India in found no evidence to initiate prosecution proceedings against him While his policies as chief minister were credited for encouraging economic growth his administration was criticised for failing to significantly improve health poverty and education indices in the state In the Indian general election Modi led the BJP to a parliamentary majority the first for a party since His administration increased direct foreign investment and reduced spending on healthcare education and social welfare programs Modi began a high-profile sanitation campaign and weakened or abolished environmental and labour laws His demonetisation of banknotes in and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in sparked controversy Modis administration launched the Balakot airstrike against an alleged terrorist training camp in Pakistan the airstrike failed but the action had nationalist appeal Modis party won the general election which followed In its second term his administration revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and introduced the Citizenship Amendment Act prompting widespread protests and spurring the Delhi riots in which Muslims were brutalised and killed by Hindu mobs Three controversial farm laws led to sit-ins by farmers across the country eventually causing their formal repeal Modi oversaw Indias response to the COVID pandemic during which according to the World Health Organization million Indians died In the general election Modis party lost its majority in the lower house of Parliament and formed a government leading the National Democratic Alliance coalition Following a terrorist attack in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir Modi presided over the India-Pakistan conflict which resulted in a ceasefire Under Modis tenure India has experienced democratic backsliding and has shifted towards an authoritarian style of government with a cult of personality centred around him As prime minister he has received consistently high approval ratings within India Modi has been described as engineering a political realignment towards rightwing politics He remains a highly controversial figure domestically and internationally over his Hindu nationalist beliefs and handling of the Gujarat riots which have been cited as evidence of a majoritarian and exclusionary social agenda

Early life and education

Narendra Damodardas Modi was born on September to a Gujarati family of Other Backward Class background and Hindu faith in Vadnagar Mehsana district Bombay State He was the third of six children born to Damodardas Mulchand Modi and Hiraben Modi h According to Modi and his neighbours he worked infrequently in his fathers tea stall in the Vadnagar railway station Modi completed his higher secondary education in Vadnagar in his teachers described him as an average student and a keen gifted debater with an interest in theatre He preferred playing larger-than-life characters in theatrical productions which has influenced his political image When Modi was eight years old he was introduced to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and began attending its local shakhas There he met Lakshmanrao Inamdar who inducted Modi as a bal-swayamsevak in the RSS and became his political mentor While Modi was training with the RSS he also met Vasant Gajendragadkar and Nathalal Jaghda Bharatiya Jana Sangh leaders who in

helped found the BJP's Gujarat unit. As a teenager he was enrolled in the National Cadet Corps. In a custom traditional to Narendra Modi's caste, his family arranged a betrothal to Jashodaben Chimanalal Modi, leading to their marriage when she was 16 and he was 18. Soon afterwards he abandoned his wife and left home. The couple never divorced but the marriage was not in his public pronouncements for many decades. In April, shortly before the national election in which he gained power, Modi publicly affirmed he was married and that his spouse was Jashodaben. A Modi biographer wrote that Modi kept the marriage a secret because he would not have been able to become a pracharak in the RSS for which celibacy had once been a requirement. Modi spent the following two years travelling across northern and northeastern India. In mid-1947, Modi reached Belur Math but was turned away after which he visited Calcutta, West Bengal and Assam, stopping in Siliguri and Guwahati. He then went to the Ramakrishna Ashram in Almora where he was again rejected before returning to Gujarat via Delhi and Rajasthan. In either late or early 1948, he returned to Vadnagar for a brief visit before leaving again for Ahmedabad where he lived with his uncle and worked in his uncle's canteen at Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. Vivekananda has had a large influence in Modi's life. In Ahmedabad, Modi renewed his acquaintance with Inamdar. Modi's first known political activity as an adult was in 1946 when he joined a Jana Sangh Satyagraha in Delhi led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee to enlist to fight in the Bangladesh Liberation War. The Indian central government prohibited open support for the Mukti Bahini; according to Modi, he was briefly held in Tihar Jail. After the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, Modi left his uncle's employment and became a full-time pracharak for the RSS, working under Inamdar. Shortly before the war, Modi took part in a nonviolent protest in New Delhi against the Indian government for which he was arrested because of this arrest. Inamdar decided to mentor Modi. According to Modi, he was part of a Satyagraha that led to a political war. In 1950, Modi received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the School of Open Learning at the Delhi University. In 1952, he received a Master of Arts degree in political science from Gujarat University, graduating with a first class as an external distance learning student. There is a controversy surrounding the authenticity of his BA and MA degrees.

Early political career

In June, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in India that lasted until 1975. During this period, known as the Emergency, many of her political opponents were jailed and opposition groups were banned. Modi was appointed general secretary of the Gujarat Lok Sangharsh Samiti, an RSS committee coordinating opposition to the Emergency in Gujarat. Shortly afterwards, the RSS was banned. Modi was forced to go underground in Gujarat and frequently travelled in disguise to avoid arrest, once dressing as a monk and once as a Sikh. He became involved in the printing of pamphlets opposing the government, sending them to Delhi and organising demonstrations. He was also involved with creating a network of safe houses for individuals who were wanted by the government and in raising funds for political refugees and activists. During this period, Modi wrote a Gujarati language book titled *Sangharsh Ma Gujarat* which describes events during the Emergency. While in this role, Modi met trade unionist and socialist activist George Fernandes and several other national political figures. Modi became an RSS sambhag pracharak in overseeing activities in Surat and Vadodara and in 1975, he went to work for the RSS in Delhi where he researched and wrote the RSS's history of the Emergency. Shortly after he returned to Gujarat and in the RSS assigned him to the BJP. In 1977, Modi helped organise the BJP's campaign in the Ahmedabad municipal election which the party won comfortably, according to biographers, Modi's planning was responsible for the win. After L. K. Advani became president of the BJP in 1980, the RSS decided to place its members in important positions within the party. Modi's work during the Ahmedabad election led to his selection for this role. Modi was elected organising secretary of the BJP's Gujarat unit. Later, in 1982, Modi rose within the party and was named a member of its National Election Committee in helping organise Advani's Ram Rath Yatra in 1984 and Murli Manohar Joshi's Ekta Yatra. Modi took a brief break from politics in 1985 to establish a school in Ahmedabad and due to friction with Shankersinh Vaghela, a BJP MP from Gujarat, Modi returned to electoral politics in 1986 at the insistence of Advani as party secretary. Modi's electoral strategy was considered central to the BJP victory in the state assembly election. In November of that year, Modi was appointed BJP national secretary and transferred to New Delhi where he assumed responsibility for party activities in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The following year, Shankersinh Vaghela, a prominent BJP leader from Gujarat, defected to the Indian

National Congress after losing his parliamentary seat in the Lok Sabha election Modi who was on the selection committee for the Gujarat Legislative Assembly election favoured supporters of BJP leader Keshubhai Patel over those supporting Vaghela to end factional division in the party His strategy was credited as central to the BJP winning an overall majority in the election and Modi was promoted to BJP general secretary in May of that year

Taking office

In Keshubhai Patels health was failing and the BJP lost a few state assembly seats in byelections Allegations of abuse of power corruption and poor administration were made and Patels standing had been damaged by his administrations handling of the earthquake in Bhuj in The BJP national leadership sought a new candidate for the chief ministership and Modi who had expressed misgivings about Patels administration was chosen as a replacement Advani did not want to ostracise Patel and was concerned about Modis lack of experience in government Modi declined an offer to become Patels deputy chief minister telling Advani and Atal Bihari Vajpayee he was going to be fully responsible for Gujarat or not at all On October Modi replaced Patel as Chief Minister of Gujarat with the responsibility of preparing the BJP for the upcoming December election On October Modi was sworn in and he entered the Gujarat state legislature on February after winning a byelection in Rajkot II constituency defeating Ashwin Mehta of the INC after Vajubhai Vala vacated his seat

2002 Gujarat riots

On February a train with several hundred passengers burned near Godhra killing approximately people The train carried a large number of Hindu pilgrims who were returning from Ayodhya after a religious ceremony at the site of the demolished Babri Masjid In a public statement Modi said local Muslims were responsible for the incident The next day the Vishwa Hindu Parishad called for a bandh across the state Riots began during the bandh and anti-Muslim violence spread through Gujarat The governments decision to move the bodies of the train victims from Godhra to Ahmedabad further inflamed the violence The state government later stated Muslims and Hindus were killed during the riots independent sources put the death toll at over the vast majority of them Muslims Approximately people were driven to refugee camps Numerous women and children were among the victims the violence included mass rapes and mutilation of women Scholars consider the Government of Gujarat to have been complicit in the riots and it has received much criticism for its handling of the situation some scholars explicitly blame Modi The Modi government imposed a curfew in major cities issued shoot-at-sight orders and called for the army to patrol the streets these measures failed to prevent the violence from escalating The president of the state unit of the BJP expressed support for the bandh despite such actions being illegal at the time State officials later prevented riot victims from leaving the refugee camps which were often unable to meet the needs of those living there Muslim victims of the riots were subjected to further discrimination when the state government announced their compensation would be half that offered to Hindu victims this decision was later reversed after the issue was taken to court During the riots police officers often did not intervene in situations where they were able Several scholars have described the violence as a pogrom and others have called it an example of state terrorism According to Martha Nussbaum There is by now a broad consensus that the Gujarat violence was a form of ethnic cleansing that in many ways it was premeditated and that it was carried out with the complicity of the state government and officers of the law Modis personal involvement in the events has continued to be debated During the riots he said What is happening is a chain of action and reaction Later in Modi said the way in which he had handled the media was his only regret regarding the episode In March the Supreme Court of India reopened several cases related to the riots including that of the Gulbarg Society massacre and established a Special Investigation Team to look into the issue In response to a petition from Zakia Jafri the widow of Ehsan Jafri who was killed in the Gulbarg Society massacre in April the court also asked the SIT to investigate Modis complicity in the killings The SIT questioned Modi in March in May it presented to the court a report finding no evidence against him In July the court appointed amicus curiae Raju Ramchandran

submitted his final report to the court. Contrary to the SITs position, Ramachandran said Modi could be prosecuted based on the available evidence. The Supreme Court sent the matter to the magistrates court. The SIT examined Ramachandrans report and in March submitted its final report asking for the case to be closed. Zakia Jafri filed a protest petition in response. In December the magistrates court rejected the protest petition, accepting the SITs finding there was no evidence against Modi. In the Supreme Court dismissed a petition by Zakia Jafri in which she challenged the clean chit given to Modi in the riots by the SIT and upheld previous rulings that no evidence against him was found.

Later terms as Chief Minister

Following the violence, calls for Modi to resign as chief minister were made from politicians within and outside the state, including leaders of Janata Dal and the Telugu Desam Party. Partners in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance coalition and opposition parties stalled Parliament over the issue. Modi submitted his resignation at the April BJP national executive meeting in Goa, but it was not accepted. Despite opposition from the election commissioner, who said a number of voters were still displaced, Modi succeeded in advancing the election to December. In the election, the BJP won seats in the member assembly. Modi made significant use of anti-Muslim rhetoric during his campaign, and the BJP profited from religious polarisation among voters. Modi framed the criticism of his government for human rights violations as an attack upon Gujarati pride, a strategy that led to the BJP winning of the seats, a two-thirds majority in the state assembly. He won Maninagar constituency, defeating Congress candidate Yatin Oza. On December, Modi was sworn in for a second term. During Modis second term, the governments rhetoric shifted from Hindutva to Gujarats economic development. He curtailed the influence of Sangh Parivar organisations such as Bharatiya Kisan Sangh and Vishva Hindu Parishad. When the BKS staged a farmers demonstration, Modi ordered the BKSs eviction from state-provided houses, and his decision to demolish illegal temples in Gandhinagar deepened the rift with the VHP. Modi retained connections with some Hindu nationalists. He wrote a foreword to a textbook by Dinanath Batra which made the unscientific claim that ancient India possessed technologies including test-tube babies. Modis relationship with Muslims continued to attract criticism. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee distanced himself, reaching out to North Indian Muslims before the Indian general election, following which Vajpayee called the violence in Gujarat a reason for the BJPs electoral defeat and said it had been a mistake to leave Modi in office after the riots. Western nations also raised questions about Modis relationship with Muslims. The US State Department barred him from entering the United States in accordance with the recommendations of that countrys Commission on International Religious Freedom, the only person to be denied a US visa under this law. The UK and the European Union refused to admit Modi because of what they saw as his role in the riots. As Modi rose to prominence in India, the UK and the EU lifted their bans in October and March respectively, and after his election as prime minister, the US lifted its ban and invited him to Washington DC. During the run-up to the Gujarat Legislative Assembly election and the Indian general election, the BJP intensified its rhetoric on terrorism. Modi criticised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his reluctance to revive antiterror legislation such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In Modi wrote *Karmayog*, a page booklet discussing manual scavenging. In it, he said scavenging is a spiritual experience for Valmiki, a subcaste of Dalits. The book was not circulated at that time because of the election code of conduct. After the November Mumbai attacks, the Gujarat government authorised the deployment of high-speed boats for coastal surveillance. In July, Modi completed consecutive days as chief minister of Gujarat, making him the longest-serving holder of that post. The BJP won of state assembly seats in that years election. Despite the BJPs shift away from explicit Hindutva, Modis campaigns in and Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections contained elements of Hindu nationalism. He attended only Hindu religious ceremonies and had prominent associations with Hindu religious leaders. During his campaign, Modi twice refused to wear skullcap gifted by Muslim leaders. He did, however, maintain relations with Dawoodi Bohra. Modis campaign included references to issues known to cause religious polarisation, including Afzal Guru and the death of Sohrabuddin Sheikh. The BJP did not nominate any Muslim candidates for the assembly election. During the campaign, Modi attempted to identify himself with the state of Gujarat, a strategy similar to that used by Indira Gandhi during the Emergency, and projected himself as protecting Gujarat against persecution by the rest of India.

While campaigning for the Gujarat Legislative Assembly election Modi made extensive use of holograms and other technologies allowing him to reach a large number of people something he repeated in the general election Modi won the constituency of Maninagar defeating Shweta Bhatt of the INC The BJP won 61 of the 181 seats continuing its majority during his tenure After his election as Prime Minister of India Modi resigned as the Gujarat chief minister and as MLA for Maninagar Anandiben Patel succeeded Modi as chief minister

Development projects

As chief minister Modi favoured privatisation and small government which was at odds with the philosophy of the RSS which is usually described as antiprivatisation and antiglobalisation Modis policies during his second term have been credited with reducing corruption in Gujarat He established financial and technology parks in the state and during the Vibrant Gujarat summit real estate investment deals worth trillion were signed The governments led by Patel and Modi supported NGOs and communities in the creation of large scale groundwater conservation projects which commentators credited with helping about half of the tehsils with depleted groundwater recharge their aquifers As a result the states production of genetically modified cotton increased to become the largest in India The boom in cotton production and its semiarid land use led to Gujarats agricultural sector growing at an average rate of per cent from 2002 to 2012 Public irrigation measures in central and southern Gujarat such as the Sardar Sarovar Dam were less successful The Sardar Sarovar project irrigated only 10 per cent of the area intended In 2002 Modi offered land in Gujarat to Tata Motors to set up a plant manufacturing the Nano car after popular agitation had forced the company to move out of West Bengal Following Tata several other companies relocated to Gujarat The Modi government finished the process of taking electricity to every village in Gujarat its predecessor had almost completed Modi significantly changed the states system of power distribution greatly impacting farmers Gujarat expanded the Jyotigram Yojana scheme in which agricultural electricity was separated from other rural electricity the agricultural electricity was rationed to fit scheduled irrigation demands reducing its cost Early protests by farmers ended when those who benefitted found their electricity supply had stabilised but according to an assessment study corporations and large farmers benefited from the policy at the expense of small farmers and labourers

Development debate

A contentious debate surrounds the assessment of Gujarats economic development during Modis tenure as chief minister The states Gross Domestic Product growth rate averaged during his tenure similar to other highly industrialised states and above that of the country Gujarat saw strong economic growth before Modi took office some scholars state that growth did not accelerate during his tenure Under Modi Gujarat performed well on measures of ease of doing business Tax breaks and land for businesses were easier to obtain in Gujarat than in other states Modis policies of making Gujarat attractive for investment included the creation of Special Economic Zones in which labour laws were greatly weakened In the later years of Modis government Gujarats economic growth was frequently used as an argument to counter allegations of communalism Despite its growth rate Gujarat had a relatively poor record on human development poverty relief nutrition and education during Modis tenure Gujarat was ranked poorly within the country on education and was reported to have a poor record of immunisation of children Under much of Modis tenure Gujarat did not significantly change its rank among Indian states with respect to poverty female literacy or infant mortality The state governments social policies generally did not benefit Muslims Dalits and Adivasis and generally increased social inequalities Development in Gujarat was generally limited to the urban middle class and citizens in rural areas and those from lower castes were increasingly marginalised Under Modi the state government spent less than the national average on education and healthcare

2014 Indian general election

On September Modi was named the BJP's candidate for prime minister ahead of the Lok Sabha election. According to Ram Madhav, Modi enjoyed the support of the people who wanted change. Several BJP leaders, including BJP founding member L. K. Advani, who cited concern with leaders who were concerned with their personal agendas, expressed opposition to Modi's candidature. Modi played a dominant role in the BJP's general election campaign. Although initially Swaraj endorsed Modi as prime minister, she later opposed declaring the candidature of Modi as it could be too early. However, despite all the resistance, Rajnath Singh managed to pursue a lot of leaders and ensure that Modi becomes the official PM candidate of BJP. Several people who voted for the BJP stated they would have voted for another party if Modi had not been the prime ministerial candidate. The focus on Modi as an individual was unusual for a BJP election campaign. The election was described as a referendum on Narendra Modi. During the campaign, Modi focused on corruption scandals under the previous Congress government and played on his image as a politician who had created a high rate of GDP growth in Gujarat. He projected himself as a person who could bring about development without focusing on specific policies. His message found support among young and middleclass people. The BJP under Modi was able to downplay concerns about the protection of religious minorities and Modi's commitment to secularism, areas in which he had previously received criticism. Prior to the election, Modi's media image had centred around his role in the Gujarat riots, but during the campaign, the BJP focused on Modi's neoliberal ideology and the Gujarat model of development. The BJP sought to identify itself with political leaders who publicly opposed Hindu nationalism, including B. R. Ambedkar, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Ram Manohar Lohia. Hindutva remained a part of the campaign. BJP leaders used Hindutva-based rhetoric in several states. Communal tensions were played upon, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Northeast India. A proposal for the controversial Uniform Civil Code was a part of the BJP's election manifesto. The BJP's campaign was assisted by its wide influence in the media. Modi's campaign blitz cost around billion and the BJP received extensive financial support from corporate donors. Modi made extensive use of social media and addressed more than rallies via hologram appearances. The BJP won per cent of the vote and more than doubled its number of seats in the Lok Sabha, becoming the first party to win a majority of seats on its own since 1984. Voter dissatisfaction with the Congress and with regional parties in North India and support from the RSS were reasons for the BJP's success. In states such as Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP performed well, it drew exceptionally high support from uppercaste Hindus and its Muslim vote increased to per cent. The BJP performed particularly well in parts of the country that had recently experienced violence between Hindus and Muslims. The magnitude of the BJP's victory led many commentators to say the election constituted a political realignment away from progressive parties towards the rightwing. Modi's tweet announcing his victory was described as being emblematic of the political realignment away from a secular socialist state towards capitalism and Hindu cultural nationalism. Modi is the first Indian PM to be born after the country's independence from the British Empire. In Modi was a candidate for the Lok Sabha constituencies Varanasi and Vadodara. He won in both constituencies, defeating Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal in Varanasi by votes and Madhusudan Mistry of the Congress in Vadodara by votes. India's president appointed Modi, who was unanimously elected leader of the BJP, Prime Minister of India. To comply with the law prohibiting MPs from representing more than one constituency, he vacated the Vadodara seat.

2019 Indian general election

On October, Modi was named the BJP's candidate for prime minister in the general election. The BJP's chief campaigner was its president Amit Shah. Modi launched the party's 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' campaign ahead of the general election against the INC's campaign slogan 'Chowkidar Chor Hai'. In the Telugu Desam Party split from the NDA over the campaign for special status for Andhra Pradesh, Amit Shah launched the BJP's election campaign on April. In the campaign, the opposition targeted Modi on allegations of corruption over the Rafale deal with the Government of France, highlighting the controversy surrounding the deal. Modi's campaign focused on defence and national security, especially after the Pulwama attack and the retaliatory Balakot airstrike, which was counted as an achievement of his administration. Other topics in the campaign were development and good

foreign relations in the first premiership Modi contested the Lok Sabha election as a candidate for Varanasi he won the seat by a margin of votes defeating Shalini Yadav of the Samajwadi Party who stood as a candidate for the SPBSP alliance Modi was unanimously appointed prime minister for a second time by the National Democratic Alliance after the alliance won the election for the second time with seats in the Lok Sabha the BJP alone won seats

2024 Indian general election

In November Modi was named the BJP candidate for prime minister in the general election The BJP's chief campaigner was its home minister Amit Shah and President J P Nadda Modi launched the party's Modi Ki Guarantee campaign ahead of the general election against the INC's guarantees campaigns that led to the party's enormous victories in the assembly elections of Karnataka and Telangana Modi contested the Lok Sabha election as a candidate for Varanasi for the third consecutive time he won the seat by a margin of votes defeating Ajay Rai of the INC who contested as a candidate for the SPINC alliance His victory margin was the second lowest ever for a sitting Prime Minister in India after Chandra Sekhar The National Democratic Alliance secured a total of seats ahead of simple majority and the BJP solely winning seats Modi thanked the voters for reposing faith in his government for the rd consecutive time

Governance and other initiatives

Modi's first year as PM saw significant centralisation of power Modi who initially lacked a majority in the Rajya Sabha the upper house of Indian Parliament passed a number of ordinances to enact his policies leading to further centralisation of power His administration enacted a bill to increase its control over the appointment of judges and reducing that of the judiciary In December he abolished the Planning Commission replacing it with the National Institution for Transforming India concentrating the power previously with the planning commission in the person of the PM The Planning Commission had in previous years been criticised for creating inefficiency in the government and of not fulfilling its role of improving social welfare but since the economic liberalisation of the s it had been the major government body responsible for measures related to social justice In its first year of administration the Modi government launched investigations through the Intelligence Bureau into numerous civil society organisations and foreign nongovernmental organisations on the grounds these organisations were slowing economic growth The investigations were criticised as a witch hunt International humanitarian aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres and environmental nonprofit organisation Sierra Club and Avaaz were among the groups that were investigated Cases of sedition and terrorism laws were filed against individuals who criticised the government This led to discontent within the BJP about his style of functioning and drew comparisons to the governing style of Indira Gandhi Modi repealed obsolete laws in first three years as prime minister such laws had been repealed by previous governments in the previous years Modi launched the Digital India programme with the goal of ensuring government services are available electronically build infrastructure to provide highspeed Internet access to rural areas boost manufacturing of electronic goods in the country and promote digital literacy In a law to reserve per cent of educational admission and government jobs for economically disadvantaged individuals was passed In Modi's administration launched the Ujjwala scheme to provide free liquefied petroleum gas connections to rural households The scheme led to an additional of Indian households having access to LPG in as compared to In the government eliminated LPG subsidies for all citizens except those covered by the Ujjwala program In the Modi administration issued a notification constituting a highlevel committee on One Nation One Election a proposal aimed to synchronise all elections in the country either on a single day or within a specific time frame In September the bill for One Nation One Election was approved by the Modi Cabinet Since May ethnic tensions between some groups have resulted in violent clashes in Manipur After month of the violence nearly were killed and more than people were displaced Modi has been criticised for his lack of reaction towards the violence

Hindutva

The activities of a number of Hindu nationalist organisations increased in scope after Modi's appointment as prime minister, sometimes with the government's support. These activities included a Hindu religious conversion programme, a campaign against the supposed Islamic practice of Love Jihad, and attempts to celebrate Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi, by members of the rightwing organisation Hindu Mahasabha. Government officials, including the Home Minister, defended the conversion programmes. Links between the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh grew stronger under Modi. The RSS provided organisational support to the BJP's electoral campaigns, while the Modi administration appointed RSS-affiliated individuals to prominent government positions. In Yellapragada Sudershan Rao, who had previously been associated with the RSS, became the chairperson of the Indian Council of Historical Research. Historians and former members of the ICHR, including those sympathetic to the BJP, questioned Rao's credentials as a historian and stated the appointment was part of an agenda of cultural nationalism. During its first term, the Modi administration appointed other RSS members to lead universities and research institutions, and recruitment of faculty members favouring the RSS increased. According to scholars Nandini Sundar and Kiran Bhatti, many of these appointees did not possess the qualifications for their positions. The Modi administration also made numerous changes in government-approved history textbooks that de-emphasised the role of Jawaharlal Nehru and glorified that of Modi, while also portraying Indian society as harmonious and without conflict and inequity. In the Modi administration, a citizenship law was passed that provides a route to Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, or Christians, but does not grant eligibility to Muslims. This was the first time religion had been overtly used as a criterion for citizenship under Indian law; it attracted global criticism and prompted widespread protests that were halted by the COVID pandemic. Counterdemonstrations against the protests developed into the Delhi riots, caused chiefly by Hindu mobs attacking Muslims. Fifty-three people were killed in the protests, two-thirds of whom were Muslim. On August 17, Modi visited Ayodhya after the Supreme Court ordered contested land in Ayodhya to be handed to a trust to build a Hindu temple and ordered the government to give alternative acres of land to the Sunni Waqf Board for the purpose of building a mosque. Modi became the first PM to visit temples at Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanuman Garhi. Soon after Modi returned to power, he took three actions the RSS had long called for: the practice of Triple Talaq was made illegal and became a punishable act; from August 1, the administration repealed Article 370 of the Indian constitution that granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir and also abrogated its statehood, reorganising it into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The region was placed under a lockdown and internet services were suspended and were not completely restored until February. Thousands of people, including hundreds of political leaders, were detained. The Supreme Court of India did not hear constitutional challenges to the reorganisation or the Citizenship Amendment Act. According to Bhatti and Sundar, this is an example of the subversion of the Supreme Court and other major institutions, which were filled with appointees favouring the BJP. During his campaign for Indian general election, Modi referred to Muslims as infiltrators with many children who would take India's wealth if his political opponents gained power. In a later interview, Modi said that regardless of the social class, there are more children in neighbourhoods plagued by poverty. He said he made no mention of Muslim or Hindu in his campaign speech. However, factcheckers have refuted this claim of Modi and found numerous instances across his election campaign where he communally targeted the Muslims.

Economy

The Modi government's economic policies focused on privatisation and liberalisation of the economy and were based on a neoliberal framework. Modi liberalised India's foreign direct investment policies, allowing more foreign investment in several industries, including defence and railways. Other proposed reforms included making the forming of unions more difficult for workers and making recruitment and dismissal easier for employers. Some of these proposals were abandoned after protests. The reforms drew strong opposition from unions. On September 11, one of the country's largest unions, including one affiliated with the BJP, struck. The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, a constituent of the Sangh Parivar, stated the underlying motivation of labour reforms favoured

corporations over labourers. The funds dedicated to poverty reduction programmes and social welfare measures were greatly reduced by Modi's administration. The money spent on social programmes declined from per cent of GDP during the previous Congress government to per cent during Modi's first year in office and spending on health and family welfare declined by per cent. The government lowered corporate taxes, abolished the wealth tax, increased sales taxes and reduced customs duties on gold and jewellery. In October the Modi government deregulated diesel prices. During Modi's first term his government reduced spending on education as share of the budget over five years; education spending dropped from per cent of GDP to per cent. The percentage of the budget spent on children's nutrition, education, health and associated programmes was almost halved between 2014 and 2019. Capital expenditure on transport infrastructure significantly rose, increasing from less than per cent of GDP in 2014 to per cent in 2019. In September Modi introduced the Make in India initiative to encourage foreign companies to manufacture products in India with the goal of turning the country into a global manufacturing hub. Supporters of economic liberalisation supported the initiative but critics said it would allow foreign corporations to capture a greater share of the Indian market. Modi's administration passed a land reform bill that allowed it to acquire private agricultural land without conducting a social impact assessment and without the consent of the farmers who owned it. The bill was passed via an executive order after it faced opposition in Parliament but was eventually allowed to lapse. Modi's government passed the Goods and Services Tax, the biggest tax reform in the country since independence, subsuming around taxes and became effective on July. In his first cabinet decision Modi set up a team to investigate black money. On November the government demonetised 500 and 1000 rupee banknotes with the intention of curbing corruption, black money, terrorism and the use of counterfeit currency. The move led to severe cash shortages and a steep decline in the Indian stock indices BSE SENSEX and NIFTY and sparked widespread protests throughout the country. It is estimated 10 million jobs were lost and that one per cent of the country's GDP was wiped out. Several deaths were linked to the rush to exchange cash. In the subsequent year the number of income tax returns filed for individuals rose by per cent and the number of digital transactions steeply increased. Modi's administration has observed a decline in GDP growth and increasing joblessness compared to the previous administration under Manmohan Singh. During the first eight years of Modi's premiership India's GDP grew at an average rate of per cent compared to the rate of per cent under the previous government. Income inequality increased. An internal government report said unemployment increased to its highest level in years. The loss of jobs was attributed to the banknote demonetisation and the effects of the Goods and Services Tax. GDP growth was per cent in the financial year with an inflation rate of per cent. In the year the GDP growth rate slowed to per cent while inflation increased to per cent. The Indian economy shrunk by per cent during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and was estimated to grow at per cent the following financial year.

Health and sanitation

In his first year as prime minister Modi reduced the central government's healthcare spending. In January the Modi government launched its New Health Policy which did not increase the government's spending on healthcare but emphasised the role of private healthcare organisations. This represented a shift away from the policy of the previous Congress government which had supported programmes to assist public health goals including a reduction in child and maternal mortality rates. The National Health Mission which included public health programmes targeted at these indices received nearly per cent less funding in 2015 than in the previous year. The Modi administration reduced the healthcare budget by a further 10 per cent in its second year. The healthcare budget for the following year rose by 10 per cent. Private insurance providers positively viewed the budget but public health experts criticised its emphasis on the role of private healthcare providers and said it represented a shift away from public health facilities. The healthcare budget rose by 10 per cent in the change included an allocation of 100 billion for a government-funded health insurance program and a decrease in the budget of the National Health Mission. Modi emphasised his government's efforts at sanitation as a means of ensuring good health. On October Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission campaign. The campaign's stated goals included the elimination of open defecation and manual scavenging within five years. As part of the programme the Indian government began constructing millions of toilets in rural areas and encouraging people to use them. The government also

announced plans to build new sewage treatment plants and planned to construct million toilets by The construction projects faced allegations of corruption and severe difficulty in getting people to use the newly constructed toilets Sanitation cover in India increased from in October to in May but use of the new sanitary facilities was lower than the governments targets In the World Health Organization stated at least diarrhoeal deaths in rural India were averted after the launch of the sanitation effort In March in response to the COVID pandemic the Modi administration invoked the Epidemic Diseases Act and Disaster Management Act The same month all commercial domestic and international flights were suspended Modi announced a hour curfew on March and followed with a threeweek total lockdown two days later Restrictions were gradually lifted beginning in April and were completely revoked in November A second wave of the pandemic that began in March was significantly more devastating than the first some parts of India experienced shortages of vaccines hospital beds oxygen cylinders and other medical supplies In late April India reported over cases in a hour period the first country to do so India began its vaccination programme in January in January India announced it had administered about billion doses of vaccines and that more than million people were fully vaccinated In May the WHO estimated million people had died of COVID in India mostly during the second wave in mid almost times the Indian governments estimate The Modi administration rejected the WHOs estimate

Foreign policy

Foreign policy played a small role in Modis election campaign and did not feature prominently in the BJs election manifesto Modis foreign policy similarly to that of the preceding Congress government focused on improving economic ties security and regional relations Modi continued Manmohan Singhs policy of multialignment The Modi administration tried to attract foreign investment in the Indian economy from several sources especially East Asia with the use of slogans such as Make in India and Digital India The government also tried to improve relations with Islamic nations in the Middle East such as Bahrain Iran Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as with Israelq Indias relationship with the United States improved after Narendra Modi became PM During the runup to the general election there was wideranging scepticism about future of the strategic bilateral relationship under Modis premiership in while Chief Minister of Gujarat Modi was denied a US visa during the presidency of George W Bush for his poor humanrights record Sensing Modis victory well before the election US Ambassador to India Nancy Powell contacted Modi as part of greater rapprochement from the West Following Modis appointment as Indias PM President Obama congratulated him over the telephone and invited Modi to visit the US The Modi government enjoyed a positive relationship with the US during the presidencies of Barack Obama and his successor Donald Trump During the first few months after his appointment as PM Modi visited a number of countries in support of his policy and attended the BRICS ASEAN and G summits One of Modis first visits as PM was to Nepal during which he promised one billion US dollars in aid Modi also made several visits to the US this was described as an unexpected development because of the USs earlier denial of a US travel visa to Modi over his role in the Gujarat riots The visits were expected to strengthen diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries In the Indian parliament ratified a landexchange deal with Bangladesh in the IndiaBangladesh enclaves which the government of Manmohan Singh had initiated Modis administration brought renewed attention to Indias Look East Policy which was instituted in The policy which was renamed the Act East Policy involved directing Indian foreign policy towards East Asia and Southeast Asia The government signed agreements to improve land connectivity with Myanmar through the Indian state of Manipur this represented a break with Indias historic engagement with Myanmar which prioritised border security over trade ChinaIndia relations rapidly deteriorated following the ChinaIndia skirmishes Modi pledged aid of million to Afghanistan which he visited twice and was honoured with Afghanistans highest civilian honour in In September Modi appeared to have developed a strong personal relationship with Russias President Vladimir Putin India hosted the G New Delhi summit during which the African Union joined the G as a permanent member In an interview on August Prime Minister Modi expressed optimism about the G countries evolving agenda under Indias presidency shifting toward a humancentric development approach that aligns with the concerns of the Global South including addressing climate change debt restructuring through the Gs Common Framework for Debt and a strategy for regulation of global cryptocurrencies Modis government

faced scrutiny in the leadup to the G meeting as multiple news sources reported that Indian authorities demolished slum neighbourhoods in New Delhi displacing marginalised residents

Defence

Indias nominal military spending steadily increased under Modi During Modis tenure the military budget declined both as a fraction of GDP and when adjusted for inflation A substantial portion of the military budget was devoted to personnel costs Commentators wrote the budget was constraining Indian military modernisation Under Modi India launched military modernisation initiative aimed at strengthening defence preparedness and streamlining defence acquisition Modi launched new policies under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign promoting indigenous defence manufacturing with policies to procure key weapon systems domestically The government has implemented several of the recommendations from the Shekatkar Committee to streamline defence procurement and rationalise spending Efforts have been made to establish Integrated Theatre Commands to enhance jointness among the services although challenges persist in their full operationalisation Modi promised to be tough on Pakistan during his election campaign and repeatedly called Pakistan an exporter of terrorism On September the Modi administration said the Indian Army had conducted a surgical strike on terror launch pads in Azad Kashmir the Indian media said up to terrorists and Pakistani soldiers had been killed in the strike Independent analysts said Indias statement about the scope of the strike and the number of casualties had been exaggerated Pakistan denied any surgical strikes to have taken place In February India carried out airstrikes against a supposed terrorist camp in Pakistan open source satellite imagery suggested no targets of significance were hit Further military skirmishes including crossborder shelling and the loss of an Indian aircraft occurred Eight months after the incident the Modi administration admitted that six Indian military personnel had been killed by friendly fire In May Chinese and Indian troops engaged in aggressive skirmishes along the SinoIndian border including near the disputed Pangong Lake Ladakh and the Tibet Autonomous Region and near the border between Sikkim and the Tibet Autonomous Region Additional clashes took place in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control In there were highprofile skirmishes between the nations A series of talks between India and China were held The first border clash reported in was on January this was referred to as a minor border clash in Sikkim Modi was from late criticised for maintaining silence over the ceding of about sq km land to China since June In December Modi signed an agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin to extend military technical cooperation The Modi government bought the S missile system an antimissile striking system strengthening the relationship between the two nations India refused to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and stayed neutral The Indian governments Operation Ganga initiative sought to return Indians stranded in Ukraine during the war More than Indian nationals were evacuated including some from neighbouring countries

Environment

While naming his cabinet Modi renamed the Ministry of Environment and Forests the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change and reduced its budget allocation by more than half in his administrations first budget The new ministry removed or diluted a number of laws related to environmental protection and others related to industrial activity The government also tried to reconstitute the National Board for Wildlife so it would no longer have representatives from NGOs but the Supreme Court of India blocked this move Other changes included a reduction of ministry oversight on small mining projects and ending the requirement for approval from tribal councils for projects inside forested areas Modi also lifted a moratorium on new industrial activity in Indias mostpolluted areas The changes were welcomed by businesspeople but criticised by environmentalists Speaking with Assamese students in Modi downplayed climate change saying Climate has not changed We have changed Our habits have changed Our habits have got spoiled Due to that we have destroyed our entire environment Later in his administration however he has called for climate action especially with the proliferation of clean energy In Modi proposed the International Solar Alliance initiative to encourage investment in solar energy Holding developed countries responsible Modi and his government have said India has had a negligible historical role

in climate change At the COP conference Modi announced India would target carbon neutrality by 2070 and expand its renewable energy capacity Indian environmentalists and economists applauded the decision describing it as bold climate action India has become the only major economy to be on track to meet its Paris Agreement goals It has achieved 100 per cent of ethanol blending five months ahead of schedule

Democratic backsliding

Under Modi's tenure India has experienced democratic backsliding His rule is known for weakening of democratic institutions individual rights and freedom of expression According to one study The BJP government incrementally but systemically attacked nearly all existing mechanisms that are in place to hold the political executive to account either by ensuring that these mechanisms became subservient to the political executive or were captured by party loyalists The Modi government has used state power to intimidate and stifle critics in the media and academia undermining freedom of expression and alternative sources of information His administration has been criticised for using a democratic mandate to undermine democratic processes including focusing on Hindu nationalist priorities rather than economic development Modi's second term as PM in particular saw the erosion of civil rights and press freedom

Public perception and image

Modi is the longest-serving prime minister outside the Indian National Congress and has received consistently high approval ratings during his premiership

Image

Modi is considered to be a vegetarian and a teetotaler On August 2014 he posted on Google Hangouts becoming the first Indian politician to interact with citizens on a live chat Modi regularly wears an ironed half-sleeved kurta and his suit has his name repeatedly embroidered in the pinstripes which he wore during a state visit by US President Barack Obama which drew public and media attention and criticism clarification needed Scholars and biographers have described Modi's personality as energetic eccentric arrogant and charismatic The nomination of Modi for the prime ministership drew attention to his reputation as one of contemporary India's most controversial and divisive politicians During the election campaign the BJP projected an image of Modi as a strong masculine leader who would be able to take difficult decisions Campaigns in which he has participated have focused on Modi as an individual an unusual tactic for the BJP and RSS Modi has relied upon his reputation as a politician able to bring about economic growth and development Modi's role in the Gujarat riots continues to attract criticism and controversy Modi's hardline Hindutva ideology and the policies adopted by his government continue to draw criticism and have been seen as evidence of a majoritarian and exclusionary social agenda

Approval ratings

During his premiership Modi has received consistently high approval ratings At the end of his first year in office he received an overall approval rating of 88% in a Pew Research poll with 88% of respondents rating him very favourably and approving of his government Modi's approval rating remained largely consistent at around 80% during his second year in office according to a nationwide poll conducted by Instavani At the end of his second year in office an updated Pew Research poll showed Modi continued to receive high overall approval ratings of 88% with 88% of those polled rating him very favourably At the end of his third year in office a further Pew Research poll showed Modi with an overall approval rating of 88% his highest yet with 88% of people polled rating him very favourably A poll conducted by The Times of India in May 2019 showed 88% of respondents rated Modi as very good and good In early 2019 a survey by Pew Research Center showed Modi to be the most popular figure in Indian politics In a

weekly analysis by Morning Consult called the Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker Modi had the highest net approval rating as of December of all government leaders in the countries being tracked

In popular culture

Modi Kaka Ka Gaon a Indian Hindilanguage drama film by Tushar Amrishi Goel is the first biopic about Modi It stars Vikas Mahante in the titular role PM Narendra Modi a Hindilanguage biographical drama film by Omung Kumar stars Vivek Oberoi in the titular role and covers Modis rise to the premiership An Indian web series called Modi Journey of a Common Man which is based on the same premise was released in May on the video streaming platform Eros Now with Ashish Sharma portraying Modi RCR a Indian docudrama political television series which charts the political careers of prominent Indian politicians covered Modis rise to the PMs office in the episodes Story of Narendra Modi from to Story of Narendra Modi in Controversial Years from to Truth Behind Brand Modi Election Journey of Narendra Modi to RCR and Masterplan of Narendra Modis NDA Govt with Sangam Rai in the role of Modi India The Modi Question a BBC documentary examines Modis role in the Gujarat riots and his record as Prime Minister of India The Indian government banned the documentary drawing widespread criticism Other portrayals of Modi include those by Rajit Kapur in the film Uri The Surgical Strike and Vikram Gokhale in the webtelevision series Avrodh The Siege Within both of which are based on the Uri attack and the subsequent Indian surgical strikes Gokhale reprised the role in the sequel Avrodh The Siege Within which is based on the Indian banknote demonetisation Pratap Singh played a character based on Modi in Chand Bujh Gaya which is set against the backdrop of the Gujarat riots Modi appeared in an episode of Discovery Channels show Man vs Wild with the host Bear Grylls in July becoming the second world leader after Barack Obama to appear in the reality show In the show Modi treks through jungles and talks about nature and wildlife conservation with Grylls The episode was recorded in Jim Corbett National Park Uttarakhand and was broadcast in India and other countries Modi hosts Mann Ki Baat a monthly radio programme on All India Radio and has conducted the competition Pariksha Pe Charcha and discussions for students and the issues they face in examinations

Awards and recognition

In March and June Narendra Modi appeared on the cover of the Asian edition of Time Magazine becoming one of the few Indian politicians to have done so In CNNNews news network awarded Modi Indian of the Year In June Modi was featured on the cover of Time Magazine In and he was named one of Time magazines Most Influential People in the World In its list of the worlds most powerful people Forbes Magazine ranked Modi th in and th in and In Modi was ranked the th Most Influential Person in the World by Bloomberg Markets Magazine In Time called Modi the third pivotal leader of independent India after Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi who dominated the countrys politics like no one since them Modi was ranked fifth on Fortune Magazines first annual list of the Worlds Greatest Leaders in In Gallup International Association conducted a poll and ranked Modi thirdtop leader of the world In a wax statue of Modi was unveiled at Madame Tussauds wax museum in London In Modi was named one of Times Most Influential People on the Internet because he was the secondmostfollowed politician on Twitter and Facebook In he was the thirdmostfollowed world leader on Twitter and the mostfollowed world leader on Instagram and Facebook In October Modi received United Nations highest environmental award the Champions of the Earth for policy leadership by pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action Modi was conferred the Seoul Peace Prize Following his second oath of office ceremony as Prime Minister of India a picture of Modi was displayed on the facade of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company building in Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates The Texas India Forum hosted a community event Howdy Modi in honour of Modi on September at NRG Stadium in Houston Texas The event was attended by over people and several American politicians including President Donald Trump making it the largest gathering for an invited foreign leader visiting the United States other than the Pope At the event Modi was presented with the Key to the City of Houston by Mayor Sylvester Turner The Bill Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Modi the Global Goalkeeper Award on September in New York City in

recognition of the Swachh Bharat Mission and the progress India has made in providing safe sanitation under his leadership In Modi was among eight world leaders who were awarded the parody Ig Nobel Prize in Medical Education for using the COVID viral pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can On December US President Donald Trump awarded Modi the Legion of Merit for improving IndiaUnited States relations On February Gujarat Cricket Association controversially renamed Motera Stadium in Ahmedabadthe largest cricket stadium in the worldNarendra Modi Stadium In July during a visit to Russia Modi was awarded the Order of St Andrew Russias highest civilian award for his effort in the development of the bilateral ties between India and Russia In March the King of Bhutan conferred Modi with the Order of the Dragon King the highest decoration of Bhutan It was the first such award to a nonBhutanese head of government Later in November during a diplomatic visit to Nigeria Modi was conferred the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger by the Nigerian President This is one of the countrys highest honours making him the second foreign dignitary to receive the award after Queen Elizabeth II in President Bola Tinubu stated that the award was presented in recognition of Nigerias appreciation for the growing partnership between the two countries Upon his arrival Modi was presented with the symbolic Key to the City of Abuja by Minister Nyesom Wike a gesture symbolising trust and honour from the people of Nigeria In December Modi was conferred the Order of Mubarak the Great the highest national honour of Kuwait Modi was named a Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key the highest honour conferred by Mauritius in March In April Modi was awarded the Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana the highest Sri Lankan award to a foreign leader in Colombo by the Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake

Electoral history

February bypoll

Writing career

In Modi published a Gujarati book titled Jyotipunj which contains profiles of RSS leaders The longest was of M S Golwalkar under whose leadership the RSS expanded and whom Modi refers to as Pujniya Shri Guruji According to The Economic Times Modis intention was to explain the workings of the RSS to his readers and to reassure RSS members he remained ideologically aligned with them After becoming the Prime Minister he also authored a book called Exam Warriors a guide for children to commendably face exams Modi has written eight other books mostly containing short stories for children Modi has penned the lyrics of two Gujarati garba songs Garbo sung by Dhvani Bhanushali and composed by Tanishk Bagchi and Maadi sung by Divya Kumar and composed by Meet Bros The songs were released on the occasion of autumn Navratri in Abundance in Millets a song by Falu and Gaurav Shah that featured a speech given by Modi for the promotion of millet received a nomination in the Best Global Music Performance category for the Grammy Awards